

I commend my colleague from Florida for his work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, effective oversight of the Department's acquisitions programs is essential to ensuring optimal program performance. Given DHS' limited budgetary resources and the gravity of its mission, it is critically important that DHS get its major acquisitions right. Enacting this legislation would require a greater level of accountability from DHS and give Congress a greater level of oversight to intercede before programs go off the rails.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 1294, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, once again, I just urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1294.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMMER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1294.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1297) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1297

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 347) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

"(C) representatives from appropriate advisory committees established pursuant to section 871, including the Homeland Security

Advisory Council and the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee, or otherwise established, including the Aviation Security Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 44946 of title 49, United States Code; and";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "based on the risk assessment required pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B)";

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting ", to the extent practicable," after "describe"; and

(ii) by striking "budget plan" and inserting "resources required";

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by inserting ", to the extent practicable," after "identify";

(ii) by striking "budget plan required to provide sufficient resources to successfully" and inserting "resources required to"; and

(iii) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: ", including any resources identified from redundant, wasteful, or unnecessary capabilities or capacities that may be redirected to better support other existing capabilities or capacities, as the case may be; and";

(D) in paragraph (5), by striking "; and" and inserting a period; and

(E) by striking paragraph (6);

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "December 31 of the year" and inserting "60 days after the date of the submission of the President's budget for the fiscal year after the fiscal year";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking "description of the threats to" and inserting "risk assessment of";

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ", as required under subsection (b)(2)" before the semicolon at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by inserting "to the extent practicable," before "a description"; and

(II) by striking "budget plan" and inserting "resources required";

(iv) in subparagraph (F)—

(I) by inserting "to the extent practicable," before "a discussion"; and

(II) by striking "the status of";

(v) in subparagraph (G)—

(I) by inserting "to the extent practicable," before "a discussion";

(II) by striking "the status of";

(III) by inserting "and risks" before "to national homeland"; and

(IV) by inserting "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(vi) by striking subparagraph (H); and

(vii) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary shall retain and, upon request, provide to Congress the following documentation regarding each quadrennial homeland security review:

"(A) Records regarding the consultation carried out the pursuant to subsection (a)(3), including—

"(i) all written communications, including communications sent out by the Secretary and feedback submitted to the Secretary through technology, online communications tools, in-person discussions, and the inter-agency process; and

"(ii) information on how feedback received by the Secretary informed each such quadrennial homeland security review.

"(B) Information regarding the risk assessment required under subsection (c)(2)(B), including—

"(i) the risk model utilized to generate such risk assessment;

"(ii) information, including data used in the risk model, utilized to generate such risk assessment;

"(iii) sources of information, including other risk assessments, utilized to generate such risk assessment; and

"(iv) information on assumptions, weighing factors, and subjective judgments utilized to generate such risk assessment, together with information on the rationale or basis thereof.";

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

"(d) REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of each report required under subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on the degree to which the findings and recommendations developed in the quadrennial homeland security review that is the subject of such report were integrated into the acquisition strategy and expenditure plans for the Department.".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to a quadrennial homeland security review conducted after December 31, 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1297, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2017.

Congress mandated through the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 that the Department of Homeland Security conduct a quadrennial Homeland Security review every 4 years. This review is intended to outline DHS' vision and strategy to effectively implement its mission to protect the homeland. Given the threats that we face from terrorists, it is vital that DHS has a sound strategy to help keep the American public safe.

Last year, the Government Accountability Office reported on opportunities for DHS to improve the QHSR process, and the GAO made four recommendations for executive action. This legislation leverages GAO's findings to enhance the QHSR and make it better.

Specifically, this legislation requires DHS to conduct a risk assessment to

better inform the QHSR, and the bill also mandates that the DHS maintain a paper trail of communications related to the QHSR. This should allow Congress and watchdogs to conduct more effective oversight of DHS.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for introducing this legislation, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1297.

The Department of Homeland Security's mission is complex and diverse. Not only is DHS charged with preventing terrorism, but it is the lead Federal agency for immigration enforcement, emergency management, cybersecurity, and border, maritime, and transportation security.

Given the breadth of DHS' responsibilities, it is essential that its limited resources be aligned with its mission to meet the ever-changing threat landscape. As such, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, which DHS undertakes every 4 years, is a critical tool to ensure that the Department is positioned to effectively carry out its multifaceted mission.

To date, DHS has issued two such reviews and is expected to release its third such review in 2018. My legislation seeks to make refinements to the law to address weaknesses identified by the Government Accountability Office in the prior reviews.

Specifically, my bill seeks to ensure more robust consultation with Homeland Security stakeholders, including State and local governments and academic institutions.

It also seeks to ensure that DHS undertakes and documents our risk analysis to inform its policy positions. GAO emphasized that documentation of the review process, including the risk analysis, is essential to ensuring the repeatability of the review process.

Last Congress, this House unanimously approved this measure in July 2016; however, the Senate did not act on the bill. Last week the Committee on Homeland Security, on a bipartisan basis, voted to favorably report this measure to the House.

My legislation is intended to ensure that the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review is a driving vision for the Department of Homeland Security. By enacting this legislation, Congress can guard against it becoming a paperwork exercise that fails to influence the Department's policies, programs, and priorities.

Given the criticalness of the DHS mission and the increasingly scarce availability of resources, it is essential that DHS produce a risk-informed review that takes into account the diverse views of its Homeland Security partners.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 1297, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN on a very commonsensical bill here that is really going to help protect tax dollars and help keep our country safe.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 1297, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1297.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DHS MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY ACT OF 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a multiyear acquisition strategy of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1249

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Multiyear Acquisition Strategy Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 836. MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

"(a) MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Comptroller General of the United States a multiyear acquisition strategy to guide the overall direction of the acquisitions of the Department while allowing flexibility to deal with ever-changing threats and risks, and to help industry better understand, plan, and align resources to meet the future acquisition needs of the Department. Such strategy shall be updated and included in each Future Years Homeland Security Program required under section 874.

"(2) FORM.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex for any sensitive or classified information if necessary. The Secretary shall publish such strategy in an unclassified format that is publicly available.

"(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, as the Secretary determines appropriate, consult with headquarters, components, employees in the field, and individuals from industry and the academic community.

"(c) CONTENTS OF STRATEGY.—The strategy shall include the following:

"(1) PRIORITIZED LIST.—A systematic and integrated prioritized list developed by the Under Secretary for Management in coordination with all of the Component Acquisition Executives of Department major acquisition programs that Department and component acquisition investments seek to address, including the expected security and economic benefit of the program or system that is the subject of acquisition and an analysis of how the security and economic benefit derived from such program or system will be measured.

"(2) INVENTORY.—A plan to develop a reliable Department-wide inventory of investments and real property assets to help the Department—

"(A) plan, budget, schedule, and acquire upgrades of its systems and equipment; and

"(B) plan for the acquisition and management of future systems and equipment.

"(3) FUNDING GAPS.—A plan to address funding gaps between funding requirements for major acquisition programs and known available resources, including, to the maximum extent practicable, ways of leveraging best practices to identify and eliminate overpayment for items to—

"(A) prevent wasteful purchasing;

"(B) achieve the greatest level of efficiency and cost savings by rationalizing purchases;

"(C) align pricing for similar items; and

"(D) utilize purchase timing and economies of scale.

"(4) IDENTIFICATION OF CAPABILITIES.—An identification of test, evaluation, modeling, and simulation capabilities that will be required to—

"(A) support the acquisition of technologies to meet the needs of such strategy;

"(B) leverage to the greatest extent possible emerging technological trends and research and development trends within the public and private sectors; and

"(C) identify ways to ensure that appropriate technology is acquired and integrated into the Department's operating doctrine to improve mission performance.

"(5) FOCUS ON FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS.—An assessment of ways the Department can improve its ability to test and acquire innovative solutions to allow needed incentives and protections for appropriate risk-taking in order to meet its acquisition needs with resiliency, agility, and responsiveness to assure homeland security and facilitate trade.

"(6) FOCUS ON INCENTIVES TO SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS.—An assessment of ways the Department can develop incentives for program managers and senior Department acquisition officials to—

"(A) prevent cost overruns;

"(B) avoid schedule delays; and

"(C) achieve cost savings in major acquisition programs.

"(7) FOCUS ON ADDRESSING DELAYS AND BID PROTESTS.—An assessment of ways the Department can improve the acquisition process to minimize cost overruns in—

"(A) requirements development;

"(B) procurement announcements;

"(C) requests for proposals;

"(D) evaluation of proposals;

"(E) protests of decisions and awards; and

"(F) the use of best practices.

"(8) FOCUS ON IMPROVING OUTREACH.—An identification and assessment of ways to increase opportunities for communication and collaboration with industry, small and disadvantaged businesses, intra-government entities, university centers of excellence, accredited certification and standards development organizations, and national laboratories to ensure that the Department understands the market for technologies, products, and innovation that is available to